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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE DETECTION SURVEY OF THE GARNET MOUNTAINS, MONTANA

by

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During late August, the annual aerial insect and disease detection survey was conducted on forested lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Garnet Mountains. A brief review of current conditions follows:

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM, Choristoneura occidentalis Free.--Infestations are on the increase in western Montana, and Douglas-fir stands over large portions of the Garnet Range are defoliated. On the north side, defoliation extends from Greenough to Green Mountain through Chamberlain Creek. On the south side, defoliation is evident from Nimrod through Packer Gulch, and from Lion Gulch eastward to Nevada Lake. Bonner Mountain near the town of Bonner is also defoliated. A total of 64,000 acres of aerially visible defoliation was detected west of Highway 271.

DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.--Increased activity along the ridge from the head of Arkansas Creek, east along Mineral Ridge, to the head of Camas Creek was detected. A few kills were also evident in West Fork Creek and on the south side of Sturgeon Mountain.

OTHER BARK BEETLES.--Ponderosa pine suffered notable beetle kills. In many cases small trees were attacked indicating probable pine engraver Ips pini (Say) infestation; however, many cases of mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk., in trees down to 4 inches d.b.h. have been observed. These are especially noticeable in Wallace, Starvation, and Cramer Creeks on the south side. To the north, infestations appear in Norman, Game, Camas, Union, and Fish Creeks.